United States Department of Agriculture — Forest Service — Allegheny National Forest
Ridgway Ranger District
R.D. #1, Box 28A
Ridgway, Pennsylvania 15853

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Reply to: 3410 July 21, 1989

Subject: Forest Pest Damage, Reply to Aerial Survey, 7/7/89

To: Robert Acciavatti

We have completed some follow-up field exams of defoliation areas shown in your report and have some additional observations.

how do they know? (this is a good guess)

We are seeing foliage damage or decline as a result of previous thrip attacks and drought over the entire District. The areas observed from the air probably have more concentrated damage due to higher densities of sugar maple species. A majority of sugar maple show evidence of attack while some appear to be in healthy condition. If the damage we are seeing is decline resulting from previous attacks, then it is highly likely that all the affected trees will die from attacks of secondary agents. This possibility has significant implications to stocking levels, ability to conduct intermediate harvests and species diversity in the future. If, however, what we are observing is the result of current attacks by thrips and future attacks are less severe, then many of the trees are likely to survive. For these reasons, it is important for us to know the cause of the current damage.

currently?

probably not true! We should monitor

agree!!

No reports of annosus root rot in PA. Maybe, pine engraver beetle.

We have been monitoring a pocket of red pine mortality just west of Highland for the past 5 years. We assumed it was an attack of Heterobasidion Annosum, formerly called Fomes Annosus resulting from a thinning conducted in 1982. The effects seemed to subside for 2 or 3 years but new mortality was again observed in 88 and 89. We have not observed any characteristic conks. The effects resemble those described in USDA bulletin HA-GR-19 on Pocket Decline and Mortality. We were previously advised not to salvage or treat the stand as it would only help spread the disease. It is due for another thinning in 1992 or earlier. Based on your advise to Bradford, should we reconsider and plan a treatment for this stand?

Should be able to see conks or maybe wind thrown trees

leaving beech in these clearcuts increases the changes for attack by the scale

We have not noticed significant amounts of beech bark disease in Ridgway District yet, but we were experiencing some beech mortality due to gypsy moth defoliation. This is most evident in old clearcuts where we left beech poles for species diversity. We continue to be concerned about the effects of both pathogens combined.

We have found that some of the areas depicted on the aerial observation map as gypsy moth damage have actually been defoliated by Forest tent caterpillar. We have not worried about this pest in the past, but our concern is increasing now. We are noticing some decline symptoms in young black cherry trees where defoliation has taken place in the past five years. This is usually in 3 to 7 year old regeneration cuts stocked primarily with black cherry. We have also observed mortality in advanced cherry regeneration in some shelterwood situations. Could this be a developing problem resulting from black cherry monotypes?

may cause mortality if 3-5 yr defoliation (repeated)

how much? (I'll bet only a small amo

Perhaps, but I don't think FTC is a problem on cher

Currently our ground observations confirm that there is very little observable defoliation from gypsy moth in the areas treated this year.

STEVE WINGATE
Silviculturalist
Ridgway R. D.

cc: District Ranger
Bob White
FPM, Durham, NH